

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Joe Neil Eads of Celina.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly was saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Joe Neil Eads, a legendary football player and coach at Celina; and

WHEREAS, a teacher and coach for more than thirty years, Coach Eads mentored and positively influenced literally hundreds of young men and women, both on and off the field of play, during his illustrious career; and

WHEREAS, a fierce, hard-nosed running back during his high school days, Joe Neil Eads was one of the best players to ever don the black and gold; and

WHEREAS, during his four-year playing career, the Bulldogs were truly a dominant team, posting a 31-7 record and earning consecutive Tobacco Bowl berths; and

WHEREAS, with Coach Eads leading the way, Celina averaged 22.2 points per game while allowing only 5.8 points per game on defense and were undefeated against six separate rivals during this span; and

WHEREAS, Joe Neil Eads began his coaching career in 1969 and quickly earned renown for demanding the maximum effort from his players on every down; he was an assistant under seven head football coaches at Celina and served as head coach himself for three seasons (1992-1994); and

WHEREAS, Coach Eads was a major component of the Bulldogs' success on the gridiron for thirty years; during this time, Celina posted a record of 193-133, made twenty post-season appearances, won eleven post-season games, and claimed ten district championships; and

WHEREAS, a great influence in the lives of his student athletes, Coach Eads was inducted into the Clay County Sports Hall of Fame, and the Clay County High School football stadium is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Joe Neil Eads is survived by his loving wife, Debbie Eads; three sons, Gary Eads and wife, Caryl, Jerry G. Eads, and Traye Seber; two daughters, Sherrie Pruitt and Tonya Baijo and husband, Pat; three sisters, Ruth Ann Dale, Nancy Eads, and Peggy Qualls and husband, Robert; two sisters-in-law, Sandra Eads and Connie Graham and husband, Donnie; thirteen grandchildren, Lindsay Walker, Tyler (Amber) Walker, Ashley (Caleb) Burnette, Brittany (Grant) Davis, Katie Spivey, Madison Baijo, Noah Baijo, Salem Baijo, Lex Baijo, Gerald Seber, Zoe Seber, Logan Eads, and Kassidie Eads; twelve great-grandchildren, Jaid Walker, Eli Walker, Tucker Walker, Abram Walker, Maddie Walker, Eli Burnette, Isaiah Burnette, Ezekiel Burnette, Nora Davis, Allie Davis, Claire Davis, and Tallulah Eads; and a host of friends and neighbors who mourn his passing; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Vanus Anderson and Mable Pauline (Cherry) Eads; brothers, Jerry David Eads and Kerry Eads; sister-in-law, Margaret Eads; brother-in-law, Jimmy Dale; and mother-in-law, Josephine Ethridge; and

WHEREAS, Joe Neil Eads led the Celina football team to unparalleled success both as a player and coach, and he should be remembered as a gentleman of great ability and unbridled passion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Joe Neil Eads, reflecting fondly upon his many accomplishments as a football player, coach, and educator, and extend our sympathy and condolences to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.